

INTIMATIONS

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.



WINES & SPIRITS.

WE beg to call attention to our PRICE LIST OF WINES AND SPIRITS as below—

As these are all selected and bought first hand by our London House we have an intermediate profit and are thereby enabled to supply the best qualities at moderate prices.

PORT.

(For Invalids and General Use.)

Port	Per Case	Per Bottle
B. VINTAGE, superior quality, Red Capable	\$14.40	\$1.20
C. FINE OLD VINTAGE, superior quality, Black Capable	16.20	1.35
D. VERY FINE OLD VINTAGE, extra superior, Violet Capable (Old Bottled)	20.40	1.70

SHERRY.

Sherry	Per Case	Per Bottle
B. SUPERIOR PALE DRY, discoloured, Green Capable	\$10.80	\$0.90
C. MEXICAN, Superior, White Capable	12.00	1.00
OC. SUPERIOR OLD DRY, PALE, Superior, Black Capable	12.00	1.00
D. VERY SUPERIOR OLD, PALE DRY, choice old wine, White Capable	14.40	1.20
E. EXTRA SUPERIOR OLD, PALE DRY, very fine quality, Black Capable (Old Bottled)	20.40	1.70

CLARET.

Claret	Per Case	Per Bottle
B. ST. ESTEPHE, Red Capable	\$ 9.00	\$ 0.75
C. ST. JULIEN, Red Capable	9.00	0.75
D. LA ROQUE, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
E. SAINT FOY, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
F. CUSSE, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
G. LAURENT, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
H. LAURENT, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
I. LAURENT, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
J. LAURENT, Red Capable	12.00	1.00

HOCK.

Hock	Per Case	Per Bottle
B. NIBELHART, Red Capable	\$12.00	\$1.00
C. NIBELHART, Red Capable	12.00	1.00
D. NIBELHART, Red Capable	12.00	1.00

BRANDY.

Brandy	Per Case	Per Bottle
A. HENNESSY'S OLD, Red Capable	\$18.00	\$1.50
B. SUPERIOR VERY OLD, Red Capable	21.00	1.75
C. VERY OLD, Red Capable	22.00	2.00
V. O. D. HENNESSY'S FINE, Red Capable	38.00	3.00
V. V. O. D. HENNESSY'S FINE, Red Capable	48.00	4.00

WHISKY.

Whisky	Per Case	Per Bottle
A. THOMAS'S BLEND, White Capable	\$10.80	\$0.90
B. WATSON'S BLEND, White Capable	10.80	0.90
C. WATSON'S BLEND, White Capable	12.00	1.00
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BROWN, JONES & CO.

AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MARBLE AND HONGKONG GRANITE.

CEMETERY MEMORIALS.

Designs and Prices on application.

Office, 47, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. [2857]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS

Only communications relating to the columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymously signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of DAILY PRESS should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that time the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash.

Telephone No. 12.

F.O. Box 20.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, OCTOBER 16, 1897.

In laying the census returns of 1881 before the Legislative Council the late Sir JOHN POKER HENNESSY made a long and interesting speech—(this speech, whatever else it might be, was always interesting)—in which he dealt on the remarkable progress made by the colony. He propounded the question, Does Hongkong fulfil the object for which it was established? and pointed to his record of the census returns in reply. But, he said, it had sometimes been discussed what the object of the colony was; he had heard it said it was a military object, or a naval object. As to this, His Excellency referred to an official despatch as authority for settling the point. Sir JOHN POKER HENNESSY had to forward to Her Majesty's Government a memorial from the foreign merchants complaining of the taxation of Hongkong; they represented that Hongkong had been established, as they thought, for military objects in China, and on that account they begged that the Imperial Government would undertake to pay the cost of the establishment and that they themselves should be relieved of taxation. The Secretary of State who had to decide this question—it was in 1848—was Mr. Gladstone, who, having reviewed the whole question, expressed the opinion that the occupation of Hongkong was decided on solely and exclusively with a view to commercial interests, that it was established in the interests of trade alone, and that the traders naturally should pay the expenses of the colony.

The object with which the colony was established has naturally come bearing on the question of the military contribution. It must be admitted that the memorial to which Sir JOHN POKER HENNESSY referred was a foolish one. No military contribution had at that time been imposed and the taxation from which the memorialists wished to be relieved was the ordinary municipal and general taxation. Such a request could not be supported by any reasonable argument. When the military contribution was imposed, however, the question presented itself in a different aspect. By that time the residents had become reconciled to taxation for local purposes, but it was contended that the military establishment was maintained for Imperial and not for local purposes its whole cost should be borne by the Imperial exchequer. On that point also they were overruled, and in course of time they became reconciled even to the military contribution, on the principle that every portion of the Empire should contribute according to its means to the cost of Imperial defence; but the question of the amount has always proved a thorny one. At first the contribution was £20,000 per annum; this was raised at one bound to £40,000, and, finally, a fixed percentage of the revenue, namely, 17½, was appropriated to this purpose, without any rebate on account of purely municipal revenue, so that the colony cannot raise money for any useful local object without paying to the Imperial Government 17½ cents out of every dollar.

In the speech of Sir JOHN POKER HENNESSY already alluded to His Excellency said: "Now, there is one aspect of this progress and prosperity which comes up as a legislative body dealing with financial matters, and it is this, that as the colony makes progress the revenue 'should improve without the imposition of any new taxes. This has also taken place.' At that time the municipal rates were twelve per cent., as they had been for years. Since then they have been raised to thirteen per cent., and there is now some prospect of their being further raised to sixteen per cent., and though it is reported that strong efforts are being made to find some way of solving the financial difficulty without having recourse to that unwelcome expedient it is to be feared that at best it is only postponing the evil day. It is true the revenue has gone on increasing, but the expenditure has also gone on increasing, and at a more rapid rate, and this demand of the Imperial Government for 17½ cents out of every dollar raised makes it difficult to adjust matters. In consideration of the extraordinary expenditure incurred in connection with the plague and the sanitary improvement of the colony, coupled with the increased burden of the local charges, good ground exists for an appeal to the Imperial Government for some consideration as regards the amount to be appropriated for military contribution during the next few years, though it is much to be feared such an appeal would fall ineffective. It certainly seems hard that whenever there is a deficit to be met that deficit should be automatically enlarged by 17½ per cent., to meet the Imperial demands, but the hardship is not likely to be recognized in Downing Street.

Perhaps we have done ourselves some harm by indulgently boasting of being the third port in the world; thereby creating a fictitious estimate of our wealth and importance and our capacity to bear increased taxation. But the comparison with other ports has been made on an entirely false basis, inasmuch as the foreign trade has been taken account of the coasting trade being carried on by the colony.

The N. Y. K. steamer Yamashiro Mura (Australia Line) left Nagasaki for this port on the 14th inst., and is expected to arrive here on the 19th inst. p.m.

A cricket match will be played between the Victoria English School and the St. Joseph's College today at the Happy Valley, commencing at 2 p.m. sharp.

Hercyn von Hoyer, the German Minister at Peking, and Baron von Ceylan, the Austrian Hungarian Minister in Peking, are both expected in Shanghai shortly.

An important will was in connection with the estate of the late Mr. Messrs. Italian Consul, was to have been heard before the Chief Justice yesterday, but the hearing was adjourned until next week.

The Imperial German mail steamer Sachsen, carrying 1,000 tons of mail, with 100 passengers, left Singapore on the 14th inst., and may be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 19th inst.

The hon. treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Netherland Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:

Oven Oriskany, \$5.

The new mint at Nanking is almost completed and will commence operations shortly. The mint is to have been heard before the Chief Justice yesterday, but the hearing was adjourned until next week.

A correspondent sends us the following joke:—We have been informed on good authority that there will be the usual daily meeting of brokers, etc., at the bar at 11 a.m. The question being asked, 'What is the name of the bar?' the answer was, 'The bar of the Royal Court of Justice.'

Native soldiers from Chungking state that the petty crop in Sichuan and Yunnan has suffered considerably from unfavourable weather. In consequence of which the price for native opium has gone up four per cent. Shipments for Hankow had considerably less of the usual quantities—Shanghai Daily Press.

The Band of the West Yorkshire Regiment will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess to-morrow evening:—

Marching March, 'The British Grenadiers'.

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